



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5678

LCO No. 2104

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING GUIDELINES FOR EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATIONS OF SUSPECTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Chief State's Attorney, in
2 consultation with the Chief Public Defender and the Commissioner of
3 Public Safety, or their designees, shall develop guidelines for policies,
4 practices and training with respect to the collection and handling of
5 eyewitness evidence in criminal investigations by law enforcement
6 agencies. The purpose of the guidelines is to provide law enforcement
7 agencies with information regarding procedures intended to increase
8 the accuracy of the crime investigation process, thus reducing the
9 possibility of erroneous convictions without reducing the incidence of
10 correct convictions. Such guidelines shall include procedures for the
11 use of sequential lineups and photo-spreads, and may include
12 recommendations that (1) the person conducting the identification
13 procedure not know who among the members of the lineup or photo-
14 spread is the suspect, (2) the person conducting the identification
15 procedure give the witness specific instructions designed to increase
16 the accuracy of any identification, (3) the individuals in a lineup or the

17 photographs in a photo-spread be presented to the witness one at a
18 time, (4) each lineup or photo-spread include not less than four
19 individuals who resemble the description of the suspect in all
20 significant respects, (5) no lineup or photo-spread contain more than
21 one suspect, and (6) training be made available for law enforcement
22 personnel in the use of these procedures.

23 (b) Not later than January 1, 2003, the Chief State's Attorney shall
24 submit a report on the guidelines developed and recommendations
25 concerning their use to the joint standing committee of the General
26 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to criminal law and
27 procedure, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
28 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
29 submits such report or January 1, 2003, whichever is earlier.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To develop guidelines for law enforcement agencies in the use of techniques designed to increase the accuracy of eyewitness identifications.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]